

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15, as follows:

FIGs. 4A and 4B show the illustrative fiber reel 201 of FIGs. 2A and 2B wherein fiber is wound around the spindles 202 on disk 207. As described above, holes 203 are illustratively used to rotate disk 207 in direction 303. Thus, for example, fiber 302 enters the reel 201 from directions 401A and 401B from two separate optical components. As reel 201 is turned in direction 303, the fiber is wrapped around spindles 202 in direction 402 until a desired amount of the excess fiber is wound around spindles 202. This manner of winding fiber onto reel 201, with the fiber secured under clip 301 and wound around spindles 202, ensures that the fiber 302 is linearly ~~would~~ wound around the spindles 202 such that substantially no torsional force is applied to the fiber as it is wound. Thus, unlike with prior fiber spools, the fiber does not twist and, accordingly, no stress-induced micro-cracks occur during storage.